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THEODORE W. NOYES.... Editor

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The "Political Prisoners." President Harding's act of clemency toward Eugene V. Debs and a number of other offenders against the wartime laws enacted for national security is a gracious act of mercy, well timed for Christmas. Debs' release some time. A constant pressure has upon the public to affect national sentiment by certain groups of sympathizers with the radical leader. An organization has been formed for the purpose of securing the release of all political prisoners," on the ground that the war being over there is no further occasion for their imprisonment. This movement was indorsed by some other national organizations and opposed by some, notably the American Legion. The President's action is not necessarily in response to this propaganda for Debs' release. It is known that he has for some time been considering the extension of clemency This action will probably not satisfy those who have been clamoring for the release of Debs and other "political offenders." In the first place, it is not a pardon, but a commutation of sen tence, which does not restore citizenship. Debs and the others are released from prison, but they do not regain their civic rights. Moreover, the de mand for release affected the cases of 197 persons, so that there remain 123 still in prison. The President refused to consider the release of those who were convicted of sabotage or attempt ed overthrow of the government by The argument of those who urged

the release of these "political prisoners" was that their offense was merely that of free speech. But in many of the cases of convictions under the espionage law the offense was far graver than the mere uttering of opinion antagonistic to the American war policy, or critical of the manner of prosecuting the war. Most of those who were convicted tried to check the operation of the selective draft law: tried, in short, to prevent the raising of the army. They discouraged enlistments and encouraged draft evasion. They preached non-resistance and pacifism. They sought to obstruct the government's preparations for war While having no traffic with the enemy, they were actually in effect aiding him by lessening the power of the United States to fight. There were varying degrees of this pernicious activity. Some men and women merely preached pacifism and draft-resistance. Some preached non-participation in works of munitions making. Some, of those not now granted clemency, tried to destroy property to check the muni-

It is not a matter now of degree of guilt so much as of contrition. Is the war-time offender against the laws repentant? Is he sincere in his realization that he played the part of bad citizenship when he tried to prevent victory for American arms in 1917-18? Apparently the President in his disrimination has not based his action definitely on that ground, but the hope is that those who have now been granted clemency will go forth free with the feeling that they erred, and the laws and to abstain from any encouragement to others to break them.

As a former revenue producer John Barleycorn places before the country the question as to whether there can be adequate taxation without intoxi-

Diplomacy plays big games, the *takes being provided by the tax-

The Parking Problem. Commissioner Rudolph, in commenting on the report of the citizens' committee on the parking question, says that he has heard objections voiced by some merchants to the proposal to prohibit parking in front of churches, theaters and clubs, and at the same time to allow it in front of business establishments. This touches troon one of the greatest difficulties of this problem. When recently the Commissioners announced their proposed rules for the regulation of parking, including prohibition in respect to all business houses in the downtown area. # protest immediately arose from merchants on the score that it would seriously interfere with trade. Cancellation of these proposed rules was due in large measure to that protest. Now It is suggested that some of the merchants object to parking in front of

mercantile establishments. This conflict illustrates the main trouble in the regulation of traffic. There is a constant encounter of interests. The motorist sees the matter at one time from the point of view of the man who has a car that must be left somewhere in the street, and again from the point of view of the man who pannot find a place in the street to park because too many others have to both a motorist and a business man, principally, of course, the latter. He wants motorists to be able to bring their cars to his store and leave them while they enter and trade. But only two or three cars can stand in front get along without the other.

If any one place of business at the Idlers have never controll same time, and if there are more than

THE EVENING STAR, owners of which have then ground for times they would still be powerless. it is impossible to load or unload merchandise trucks, which must be brought as close as possible to the es-

> Thus the whole question is some mittee has proposed what is probably that is done—and that is the aim—we the best compromise between parking, shall as a nation get along very well. and no-parking on business blocks, But the real solution lies in the pro vision of garages for the accommodation of machines during business seriously considered, for the establishdowntown for a short time, to be summoned by special calling devices from the stores or office buildings where their owners may be doing business."

Of course, such construction would be very expensive, perhaps too costly for consideration here. But whether daytime storage space is provided on the surface or underground or above the streets and buildings in some way it must be afforded in a few years, for Washington at the present rate of from prison has been expected for growth will be choked with motor cars during business hours, to the great de been exerted upon the executive and lay of all traffic and to the increase of danger to the public

The Senate and Conference Results

It is important and encouraging to remember that when the results of the armament conference come up for onsideration in the Senate two men thoroughly competent to explain them in every detail will be present to do so Moreover, both men are always heard with close attention by the Senate They have established leadership in the chamber, one on one side and the other on the other.

Mr. Lodge and Mr. Underwood ar rominent in the work of the confer ence, and will return to Capitol Hill prepared to meet all comers as to the purpose and the value of what the

onference shall have accomplished. When the results of the Paris conference were before the Senate no member of that body appearing as the champion of what Mr. Wilson had brought back with him had other than second-hand information on the sub ject. And information even of that kind was meager. Mr. Wilson had operated so much on his individual account-had played a lone hand so much at Paris—the supporters of his work had to look to him for arguments and explanations; and his com munications left much to be desired. He did not answer his critics thoroughly even on his stumping tour

across the continent. The American delegates to the arma ment conference have so far been in agreement, and are likely to continue of one mind as to what the occasion calls for. So that what Mr. Lodge and Mr. Underwood shall say to the Senate concerning their labors as delegates will make a strong appeal to thoughtful and well informed American opinion.

Joy in a Basket.

At this season of the year those who look only upon the surface of things might imagine that every one had forgotten the true significance of Christmas. There is much talk of gifts much talk of turkey, but not so much said about the birthday of the Savior.

But beneath the common currents of our conversation runs a deeper feeling which will show forth tomorrow in all the churches of the city in hymn and devotion, and in the hearts of solid citizens who today talk only

of turkey and gifts. There will be, too, thousands of people in the District who this evening and tomorrow will exemplify the teachings of Jesus in a practical way which He taught. They will carry baskets of food to homes which otherwise

would go without on Christmas day. An eminent musician recently declared that before the war he had lived for music's sake alone, but that his experiences on the front had taught all her paper money. him that even the highest ideals wane with the resolution henceforth to obey when the stomach is empty. Give the greatest musician in the world a piece of bread and a cup of water, he said, and he will play his music better Even the hungry listener will lister

So, on Christmas, every one who packs a hasket with food and carries it to a home where it will fill empty stomachs will help bring the true significance of the day to some who otherwise might miss it. And in thus taking joy in a basket to others he will bring joy to himself.

According to some naval experts a capital warship is interesting as a comparatively passive target for a

History provides no encouragement for the assumption that all the problems of the world can be settled at a

submarine.

single conference. International bargaining in Wash ington makes a day on Wall street

"A Workers' Republic."

look like child's play.

This is from New York: This is from New York:

Hundreds of members of various radical organizations tonight opened a convention here which is intended to create "the workers' party of America," a unification of revolutionary workers. George Hardy, leader of the element in the L. W. W. favorable to the world-wide revolution, said that the goal of this new party would be to set up a workers' republic in America. "Simultaneous with a great uprising." he said, "we must get in our hands the instrument of government and begin an oppression against the master class and put them where they have us today. We are going to repeat throughout the whole world what the Russian workers have done

what the Russian workers have done in their country.' Mr. Hardy seems not to be advise of the fact that "a workers' republic' already exists in America. True, all aken positions there. The merchant the citizens of it do not work with their hands. Some, naturally, work with their brains. As in all countries, brain-workers are as necessary in America as brawn-workers. Each class complements the other. Neither could

Idlers have never controlled Amer ica. To begin with, they are not nuthat number they encreach upon the merous enough; and, to end with, if deprive a man of de power of speech-

complaint. Furthermore, when the "Zip," "pep," "ginger," "git-up-andcars of customers are parked in front getedness," what you please, is what counts in this country.

Our problem is to bring the two classes of workers into better relations with each other; to bring each to a better understanding of the rights that paradoxical. The citizens' com- and just privileges of the other. When

The Russian workers, under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky, have made a horrible mess in their country. Does Mr. Hardy want such conditions hours. New York is wrestling with spread over the world? They could this same problem, and the other day not be spread over this country. In a proposal was made, and is now being Russia Lenin and Trotsky have been dealing with people brutalized and ment of municipal parking garages made desperate by the consequences under the park spaces. The plan, of centuries of czarism. They could which has been tried elsewhere, is to not find in large numbers the like of excavate accommodation under the the former Russian serf in America. parks for machines that are to be left Hence their leadership in America would be impossible.

Constructive Christmas Work.

A most delightful custom has de reloped in recent years of organizations of citizens and business men taking upon themselves the entertainment of children at Christmas time These groups of busy men, aided in many cases by their wives, prepare big "Christmas parties" for the children, with automobiles provided to transport them and with toys and sweetmeats and foods of all kinds appropriate to the season for their delight. These children are chosen from mong the families of the poor of Washington who otherwise would have but scanty reminders of Christ-

mas time There is no measuring the good that these "lords bountiful" do thus in their innual endeavors for the happiness of the little folks of Washington. Others than business organizations do the same. Churches, missions and neighborhood associations conduct these Christmas parties. It has become the fashion, and one, it is to be hoped that will never pass, but will become more systematic year by year.

The ideal is that no child in Wash ington should go without some tangible token of the season, some souvenir of kindness and thoughtfulness. The ways of the little folks who dwell in poverty are hard. Their lives are pretty gray and drear. After they have passed the period of unconsciousness of privation they realize their own unmet wants and they are apt to envy more fortunate children. Envy is not a wholesome feeling. It is destructive

and it makes for trouble in later years. These big Christmas parties conducted by the clubs and churches and missions and other organizations help to smooth out the wrinkles, to make life easier for the youngsters, to give them a more wholesome outlook, to give them a surer start toward good nanhood and good womanhood. And for this service these groups of good people should receive the thanks of the whole community.

the highest importance in political and two provisions, which they endeavor onomic transactions.

The fact that North Carolina is a democratic state does not prevent article President Harding from going to Pinehurst. Golf knows no politics.

Anarchists exhibit a tendency gravitate toward Europe. The genuine American citizen never develops into

If Germany can produce "synthetic gold." identical with the natural product, she may yet be able to redeem

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

Obscure But Influential. omebody spread the story

That "there ain't no Santa Claus. The old boy lost his glory And we silenced our applause. But a million good and true men Said, "It is no time to shirk, and although we're merely human

We will try to do the work."

So each kiddie gets his present As he did in days of yore, And the world seems warm and plea

Though it's chilly out of door. Every pulse, with glad persistence Feels a strong and generous threl And Old Santy in the distance

Stands around to boss the job Quantity and Quality.

"Your constituents are commenting on the fact that your speeches are not as long as they used to be." "I hope," rejoined Senator Sorghum, that they realize and appreciate the care and labor invelved in going over them and trying to make

Jud Tunkins says that in spite of all the affection for him, Santa Claus

is never going to get popular enough

to set the fashion in whiskers

The Pathway.

We're told we ought to smooth the That fellow mortals have to go. We can't strew roses every day.

But we can shovel off the snow.

"Dar's a heap o' gratitude," said
Uncle Eben, "dat don't never git
proper expression, foh de reason dat
fullness of de heart is mighty liable to
desprive a man of de power of speech
making."

Therein lies the difference, the Potter
land Oregonian (independent republican) observes, for in doing whatever
a council "deems necessary to 'preserve," "war is clearly a possibility,
while "there is absolutely nothing in
the Pacific treaty compelling the use
of force." "A resent to arms is not

Next.

It. That has never been tried on war.

St. Louis Globe Democrat,

Margot Asquith is coming over.

Everybody should check his particular
pet faux pas and favorite peccadillo
until the main is pest.—Chiesco

Who's Who

At the Arms

XXX-Senator Oscar W. Underwood.

pointed Senator Oscar W. Underwood of Alabama one of the four principal delegates to the conference on the limitation of armament satisfaction twas widely expressed. In the first place. Senator Underwood is recognized as one of the ablest men in either branch of Congress. In the second place, he is the leader of the democrats in the Senate, and it was generally conceded that the President had been wise to appoint a member of the minority party a member f the delegation.

Of the fifty-nine years of his life, Senator Underwood has spent twenty-Senator Underwood has spent twentysix in Congress—the first twenty
years as a member of the House of
Representatives, and the last six
years as a member of the Senate. He
is now beginning his second term as
senator. Before he had completed his
first term in the Senate he was selected as leader of his party in that
body, which is almost unprecedented
in the annals of the Senate, where
length of service counts so much
when it comes to selection of officers
and membership on important committees. But Mr. Underwood is essentially a leader. He has all the
characteristics which make him an
able chieftain.



sentially a leader. He has all the characteristics which make him an able chieftain.

Moreover, the democrats had had experience with him as a leader in the House. When, during the Tatt administration, the democrats came into power, Mr. Underwood became chairman of the House ways and means committee. In those days this office took with it the floor leadership of the House, though this rule has now been modified, and the floor leader and the chairman of that important committee are not one and the democrats into an aggressive fighting party group in the House. When Woodrow Wilson was elected President and the Senate became democratic, too, Mr. Underwood welded the Moodrow Wilson was cleated President and the Senate became democratic, too, Mr. Underwood-Simmons tariff act "for revenue only" as opposed to the republican tariff for protection.

Mr. Underwood is one of the best posted men in the country on matters relating to the tariff and interinal revenue. When he entered the Senate, leaving Senator Simmons of North Carolina to lead on tariff, questions. It was not long, however, before Mr. Underwood made himself recognized as a power in the Senate, leaving Senator Simmons of North Carolina to lead on tariff, questions. It was not long, however, before Mr. Underwood made himself recognized as a power in the Senate, leaving Senator Simmons of North Carolina to get his colleagues together and to hold them together. This is due in part to his personality, particularly lovable. He

EDITORIAL DIGEST

A very slight difference in geological as article X of the covenant of the events prevented Japan from being a league of nations? In the opinion of peninsula instead of an island. This many papers upholding the league difference, however, looms up as of the negligible difference between the to prove, is the conclusive argument

> ther and even more definite and the Scranton Times (demholds that because "in a very

treaty," and the Scranton Times (comocratic) holds that because "in a very
great measure article II of the new
treaty is identical in purpose with
article X," and includes "practically
the heart of what the covenant almed
at." friends of the league of nations
"can with sincerity approve the fourpower pact."

It is, indeed, a "hopeful sign" to tha
Muskegon Chronicle (independent)
that the administration "had the
courage to do the consistently inconsistent thing" and "adopt the only
method that promises a way out."
Placed side by side in the Chronicle's
editorial are the two provisions, and,
in its opinion, as well as that of many
writers, they form "a deadly parallel."
Article II of the new treaty provides
that:

vise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled."

The "difference in principle is nil." the Lynchburg News (democratic) interprets the two clauses, even though here is a material difference in scope for, the Louisville Courier-Journal (democratic) says article II is "simply article X applied to a narrower field"; as the New York World (democratic) to the Harrisburg Patriot (independent democratic), also, "the two articles are as like as two peas in a pod in principle," and "in both instances when danger threatens there shall be conference and consideration of means and methods of meeting the situation of fulfilling the obligation," with the "moral" force of that obligation no less in the new treaty than in the old. Such difference as there is between them "is really one of degree in frankness," the Milwaukee Journal (independent) thinks, for while the "guarantee against aggression" is not stated in precise terms in the Pacific treaty as it is in the covenant, action "is intimated in an unmistakable manner."

There are "similarities," the New States and made them see more clearly the advantages of business co-operation between two countries which, though divided politically by man, have been made one economically by nature.

There will probably be new proposals for reciprocity now, coming from Canada, since our neighbors seem to be of the opinion that two such countries grow rich from exchanging goods with each other. Our industrial and financial interests support the proposal, and the "agricultural bloe" may be expected to line up against it—Butte Post (republican).

There has been so much summer weather this wing that, we are told, fur dealers have done a big business.—Arkansas Gazette.

Mr. Hughes' limitation of destructive constructive destructive conor, the Louisville Courier-Journal

manner."
There are "similarities," the New York Tribune (republican) readily admits, but "the dissimilarities are more numerous." Chiefly, the Ithaca Journal-News (independent) points out, "there is no 'supergovernment." The new pact, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph (republican), "relates to matters in which our government and the others have a direct interest because of ownership. * * Article X would have pledged us to in-

ticle X would have pledged us to in-terfere in matters that did not con-cern us in the slightest."

But the distinction that is empha-Harmless Cheer.

"Do you remember when we used to have eggnog and everything for Christmas?"

"Yes," replied Uncle Bill Bottletop.
"But I have reverted to my knocent childhood days. I'm going to hang up my stocking instead of a bootleg."

"Dar's a heap o' gratitude," said Uncle Eben. "dat don't never git sisted most persistently is the one which concerns the "guarantees" behind the agreements. A number of papers, among them the Boston Herald (independent republican) draw attention to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, says the Herald, "requires the contracting parties to "respect" each others' rights," while article X pledges league members to "respect" and "preserve" territorial integrity and existing political independence. Therein lies the difference, the Pont-land Oregonian (independent republication that is emphasized most persistently is the one which concerns the "guarantees" behind the agreements. A number of papers, among them the Boston Herald (independent republican) draw attention to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, says the Herald, "requires the contraction to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, and "preserve" territorial integrity and existing political independence. Therein lies the distinction that is emphasized most persistently is the one which concerns the "guarantees" behind the agreements. A number of papers, among them the Boston Herald (independent republican) draw attention to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, and "respect" each others' rights," while article X Therein lies the difference, the Port-land Oregonian (independent republican) draw attention to two words which they consider significant. The new treaty, and "respect" each others' rights," while article X Therein lies the difference, the Port-land Oregonian (independent republican) and the agreements. A number of papers, among them the Boston Herald (independent trepublican) and the agreements and the agreements and the papers and t

Does Article II Resemble
Article X?

Is article II of the new four-power treaty substantially the same thing as article X of the covenant of the league of nations? In the opinion of many papers upholding the league

India and Autonomy. The impression grows, probably by

in favor of accepting the new treaty. tion appears to be almost solved, that But, on the other side of the debate the next task Great Britain faces is The unworthy often profit by the efforts of the deserving. Early Christmas shoppers have made the last hours of holiday buying comparatively serene and comfortable.

But, on the other side of the debate the utter dissimilarity in import, whatever the resemblance in wording. India. Within the next ten years according to a member of the British indian council at Washington, compopular support of the new pact. So totally divergent viewpoints seek the same objective.

"After all the fuge and feathers over the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain to disport themselves in carefree indifference to the political state (democratic), "we are continued to disport themselves in carefree indifference to the political state (democratic), "we are continued to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in contain the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous article X of the Wilcontinue to disport themselves in the famous scope. Indian manufacturers believe they have a grievance against the British government, super-induced by the failure of the English authorities to protect Indian mercantile institutions against the influx of Britishmanufactured products. Ghand, an idealist, is leading the way toward apprising the English of how much antagonism there is to the practice. Many men of India feel perfectly safe in saving that there would be no atin saying that there would be no at-tempt to revolt or throw over the governmental authority which rests with the crown. The next few years will determine in large measure what India's future is to be. Eventually a new status will be established. Day

For Reciprocity.

ton News (democratic).

writers, they form "a deadly parallel."
Article II of the new treaty provides that:
"If said rights are threatened by the signessive action of any other power the high contracting parties shall communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an inderstanding as to the most efficient neasures to be taken jointly or septely to meet the exigencies of the communicate with one another fully and frankly in order to arrive at an understanding as to the most efficient measures to be taken jointly or separately to meet the exigencies of the particular situation."

Article X is as follows:

"The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the league. In case of any such aggression * * the council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled."

United States. The initiative had come from President Taft, who staked his political fortunes on that plan for closer trade relations between the two countries. The plan was generally favored in the states, though western agricultural interests were dubicus or hostile. The British took slarm and made an imperial issue of it. Rudyard Kipling cabled excitedly to Canada on election day. "It is your own soul that you put in jeoparanda won, and Canadian retusal settled the matter.

In the election held the other day

In the election held the other day the liberal party comes back to power, largely on this same issue of reciprocity. The Canadian people are for it now, by a big majority. Time has softened their feelings toward the

plan provides for constructive de-struction instead of destructive con-struction.—Arizona Republican.

What, then, did M. Briand mean when he said, on the announcement of the naval program, "We are behind you?" That France was behind us in the size of her navy, and mup?—Omaha World Herald.

up the hope of popularizing it in this country.—St. Paul Pioneer Press. If the nations will only wipe out the debts they can then set themselves to the pleasant task of wiping out com-petitors.—Baltimore Sun.

Having learned at last just why Admiral Beatty wears his hat so peculiarly the public is new ready to turn its attention to some other vital problem.—Nashville Tennessean.

There was a time when it was thought dueling could never be brought to an end. Ridicule finished it. That has never been tried on war.

THANK YOU!

Wishing my many friends and patrons a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Wm. H. Grovermann

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